

III. PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), Applicant hereby requests an extension of time for **one Month(s)** to respond to the above-referenced Office Action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee of \$110.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1225 (Docket No. VAS-5588DIV). A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. If the Commissioner determines that a further extension of time is necessary to file the response, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension of time as the Commissioner deems necessary.

IV. CONCLUSION

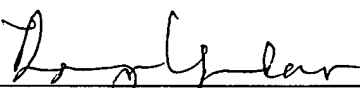
Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, it is submitted that this application is now ready for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (949) 250-6801.

If an appropriate payment does not accompany or precede this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, such as under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, including any petition for extension of time, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1225 (VAS-5588DIV).

Dated: March 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Edwards Lifesciences LLC

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